



## **ACTION NOTES FROM MEETING IN BIRMINGHAM ON 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016**

The meeting was held to give firework companies an opportunity to discuss last year's competition and any rule changes that might need to be considered for the current year. The following were agreed:

**Professional judging marks** - in view of some issues with risk assessments and some transport to the site in 2015, it was agreed that scores should be introduced for the timely and correct following of procedures. These points will be based entirely on factual information and monitored by TESA.

- *Two points will be given for meeting each of the pre-set deadlines for submission of materials*
- *4 points if materials and displays match the risk assessments provided.*

**Unprofessional or Illegal:** The professional judges may deduct points if anything is deemed to be illegal or unprofessional. As part of the rules, competitors must ensure that all their activities are legal. The adjudicator and monitor will be asked to report any illegal activity or material to the professional judges who may, at their discretion, deduct points.

**Guidance on Risk Assessments** - in view of issues with some risk assessments in the past, the new rules will outline what is expected in terms of risk assessments as follows:

*Your risk assessment **must** be based on the assumption that you will be positioned in the firing site closest to the crowd line and buildings. The crowd line at this location is approximately 222 metres away and the nearest building (where there may be residents and spectators) is 130 metres away.*

*Your risk assessment must include every aspect of Health and Safety that is required by you to work safely, from arrival onsite to leaving following the competition, and is to include but not be limited to the following*

- *The crowd line*
- *The location of buildings with possible spectators*
- *The wind direction and strengths – most likely and worst case scenarios*
- *The calibres, firing angles and types of fireworks being fired*
- *Fallout calculations for the above, including failure distances*
- *Proposed actions that would be taken given the worst conditions*

*Each competitor is responsible for their own health and safety and compliance with the law, and the ultimate decision as to whether to fire a display or not rests with the competitor once the Adjudicator has determined that the display may proceed. Competitors are expected to follow all guidance and best practice used within the industry, and must fully comply with any local authority requirements, or requirements from the Adjudicator in relation to health and safety. In accepting the rules for the competition, each competitor takes full responsibility for the use and consequence of all their pyrotechnics and equipment.*

**Risk Assessment Submissions** - Risk assessments to be submitted within 4 weeks of competitors being notified of their entry acceptance. However, to allow for material availability issues, competitors may alter their assessments until up to two weeks prior to the event starting provided that they can justify such changes (e.g. material availability). Changes should not substantially change the show and the final material/risk assessment submissions two weeks before the show will be the basis that displays are judged against. Angles should not be changed from the original submission.

**Firing Position Draw** – This will take place after the final risk assessment submissions are received.

**Final Site Check** – This to be done an hour before the first display to give competitors as much time as possible to complete their displays.

**Adjudicator** – The Adjudicator will be asked by TESA to be a little more flexible and less confrontational in approach with competitors.

**Insurance** – competitor public liability insurance to remain at £5 million unless there is a change in the requirement from the Council or the overall event insurers

**Firework Industry Monitor** – The organisers will continue to invite the BPA to provide a Monitor at the event. The Monitor to continue the role of representing competitors and ensuring fair play but also to provide the organisers with technical advice where appropriate.

If the BPA does not provide a Monitor, the organisers to invite another representative from the industry via the CBI or independently to take on this role.

**Support Structure** – The organisers to impress on Plymouth City Council the need for skips, sandbags and security to be on site throughout the event (to be in place when contestants arrive on site) and also for a road-sweeper to clear the site after both nights. If necessary, TESA to look at organising these directly.

**On Site Catering** - The organisers to talk to the catering contractors about providing a catering unit on the firing site during the day.

**Visiting Times** - There will be two times each day when visitors can attend the firing site – 12 noon and 4pm. Otherwise only crew members and officials will be permitted on the site. *(NB. The only deviation from this is that accredited media will be accommodated at all times, with the agreement of team principals).*

**Adjudicators Briefing** – this to remain at 9am

**Judging Brief** - Competitors will no longer be required to provide this.

**San Sebastian** – TESA agreed to seek to keep the door open for winners to have an automatic place in the San Sebastian competition the following year.

**Seawings Development** – Competitors should be aware that construction is likely to start this year. Although the organisers have secured terms with the Council and developer to minimize the risk, competitors should bear this in mind in doing their risk assessments.

### **Other Matters**

The meeting also discussed the longer term financial arrangements for the event and gave TESA guidance on fees competitors would like to see. TESA also said that they would like to create a fund/bursary to support the firework industry and asked the BPA to consider if they would like to administer this and consider what it might usefully be used for.